

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121778

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO, IT

SUBJECT:LTDP - CONTINUED RESERVATIONS BY ITALY

REF: STATE 119858 DTG 110029Z MAY 78

1. REFTEL ASKS CAPITALS TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN TO ALL
NATIONS ON NUMEROUS RESERVATIONS IN DRAFT DPC REPORT.
REVIEW OF 10 MAY DPC REPORT RECEIVED TODAY CONFIRMS OUR
INITIAL CONCERN WAS WELL FOUNDED. ITALY NOW HAS 28
FOOTNOTES IN THE REPORT WHICH IS FAR IN EXCESS OF ANY
OTHER NATION -- ALMOST DOUBLE NEXT LARGEST NUMBER FROM
TURKEY. EMBASSY SHOULD IMPRESS UPON FOREIGN MINISTRY AND
MOD OUR PARTICULAR CONCERN LEST THE DPC END UP A
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SYNTACTICAL EXERCISE.

2. SUPPLEMENTAL TO REFTEL, EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD STRESS
TO ITALIANS THAT OUT OF THEIR 28 RESERVATIONS, 16 ARE
DIRECTED TOWARDS DILUTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY ADDING
"AGREE IN PRINCIPLE" VICE "AGREE" OR "AIM TO PROVIDE"
VICE "PROVIDE" OR "FURTHER STUDY" VICE "IMPLEMENT"; FOUR

ARE RESERVATIONS WITHOUT CLARIFICATION; TWO ARE ITALIAN-ONLY TEXTUAL CHANGES; TWO ARE AD REFERENDUM TO ITALY; TWO ARE A MATTER OF ITALY BEING THE ONLY COUNTRY NOT YET IN A POSITION OF AGREEING THAT HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT BE

INVITED TO REVIEW THE ALERT SYSTEM ISSUE (THAT WILL GO REGARDLESS OF ITALIAN RESERVATION); ONE IS A RESERVATION SUBJECT TO "AVAILABLE RESOURCES" AND FINAL ONE CONCERNS ITALY NOT ACCEPTING A MNC TO COORDINATE FOLLOW-THROUGH PROGRAMS. REFTEL OUTLINED WHY MOST OF THESE RESERVATIONS ARE NOT NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITALIAN INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH HAS CONFRONTED THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY, WE DO NOT WANT IT TO PARALYZE AND DISRUPT LTDP AT DPC AND SUMMIT. WE URGE YOU TO IMPRESS UPON SENIOR MEMBERS OUR CONCERN. MOREOVER THEIR PROMPT OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO SYG OF REMOVAL OF MOST OF THESE RESTRICTIONS IS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESSFUL CONSIDERATION OF LTDP BY MINISTERS.

3. FINALLY, LARGE NUMBER OF ITALIAN RESERVATIONS WILL NOT HAVE IMPACT ON FINAL REPORT BUT ONLY WILL EMBARRAS ITALIAN DEFMIN WHO WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THEM. FURTHERMORE, IT WILL CREATE UNFAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE AT DPC WHICH COULD HAVE DELETERIOUS IMPACT ON SUMMIT. WE KNOW THIS IS NOT ITALIAN DESIRE. FORMIN AND DEFMIN SHOULD
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BE INFORMED OF OUR CONCERN.

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